

July 2, 2020

2020-21 BUDGET – UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY MESSAGE

Earlier this week, the University of Lethbridge Board of Governors passed the 2020-21 budget. As our community knows, this year's budget process has been a challenging one due to evolving government directives and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Budget documents have been posted to the University's [Budget Website](#).

I would like to thank our university community for their collective efforts in helping to get us to this point. The attention and input our campus community provided during this process, including at the two town halls held this spring, has been invaluable in helping to create a balanced budget.

Further input will be critical in the months ahead. We know our operating funding will be further reduced over the next two budget years and to ensure we are able to effectively undertake our teaching, research and community outreach activities for the benefit of the students and communities we serve, further transformation will be required. The University will be looking at many opportunities to bring together capacity that resides across our campus to undertake the work that will allow the University to continue to deliver on its mandate. Numerous taskforces have been established on a variety of different initiatives to allow the University to achieve its mandate and the required budget reductions. I encourage you to share your thoughts, ideas and experiences on the University's Budget website (Feedback & Ideas).

The University is not contemplating additional layoffs over the next couple of months. As we deal with future funding restraint, and opportunities to diversify our revenue streams, we must ensure our actions are deliberate and well thought out. Our collective work in the coming months, which will look at new ways of undertaking many of the activities on our campus, will be critical in this regard.

Once again, I would like to sincerely thank our campus community for their dedication and hard work. It has been a challenging time for our University community and much of our work has been undertaken in a remote nature. While we will continue to be challenged in the future, I am greatly comforted by the fact that our faculty and staff have skillfully been able to continue to move our institution forward. I know this work will continue and that the U of L will continue to excel as a comprehensive research and teaching institution.

Mike Mahon, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor